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Sixth Committee

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 27 September 1999, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Mochochoko ..... (Lesotho)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Statement by the Chairman

1. **The Chairman** said that the need to promote awareness and observance of the principles of international law was particularly relevant in the case of small, least developed countries such as his own, which lagged behind others in both legal formulation and implementation. As the millennium and the United Nations Decade of International Law drew to a close, there must be a renewed commitment to the rule of law, for only then could the elusive ideals of international peace, tolerance and mutual respect be realized.

2. Although the Committee's agenda for the session was full, he was confident that a concerted effort in the coming weeks would allow it to resolve the outstanding questions relating to terrorism and to the jurisdictional immunities of States and their property.

Election of officers

3. *Mr. Franco (Colombia), Ms. Hallum (New Zealand) and Mr. Kawamura (Japan) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.*

4. *Mr. Klisović (Croatia) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

Organization of work (A/C.6/54/1 and A/C.6/54/L.1)

5. **The Chairman**, drawing attention to the note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the Committee (A/C.6/54/L.1) and to the allocation of items to the Committee (A/C.6/54/1), said that the programme of work proposed in section III of document A/C.6/54/L.1 was subject to change as the session progressed. He reviewed the proposed timetable, which reflected the outcome of informal consultations held with the Legal Counsel.

6. Regarding the Committee's various working groups, he recalled that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 to study measures to eliminate international terrorism was to be continued during the current session by a working group of the Committee. He took it that the Committee wished to elect Mr. Kirsch (Canada) to serve as Chairman of that working group, and that it wished the working group, like the Ad Hoc Committee, to be open to all Member States and to members of specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency. He also took it that the Committee wished to elect Mr. Hafner (Austria) to serve as Chairman of the open-ended working group of the Sixth Committee established by General Assembly resolution 53/98 and that it wished to elect Ms. Flores (Mexico) to serve as Chairman of the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law, which would focus on the preparation of draft resolutions under agenda item 154.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **Mr. Mikulka** (Secretary of the Committee), replying to a query by **Ms. Achouri** (Tunisia) as to the reasons for the delay in the issuance of certain documents, noted that the major documents to be considered by the Committee had been issued on time. Publication of the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of International Law (A/54/362) and measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/54/301 and Add.1) had been dependent on the timely submission of responses by Governments. Despite some late submissions, both reports would be issued, according to the priorities set by the Documents Control Section, in time to be considered under the relevant agenda items. The report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (A/54/26) would, of course, be available only when that Committee had completed its work.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.